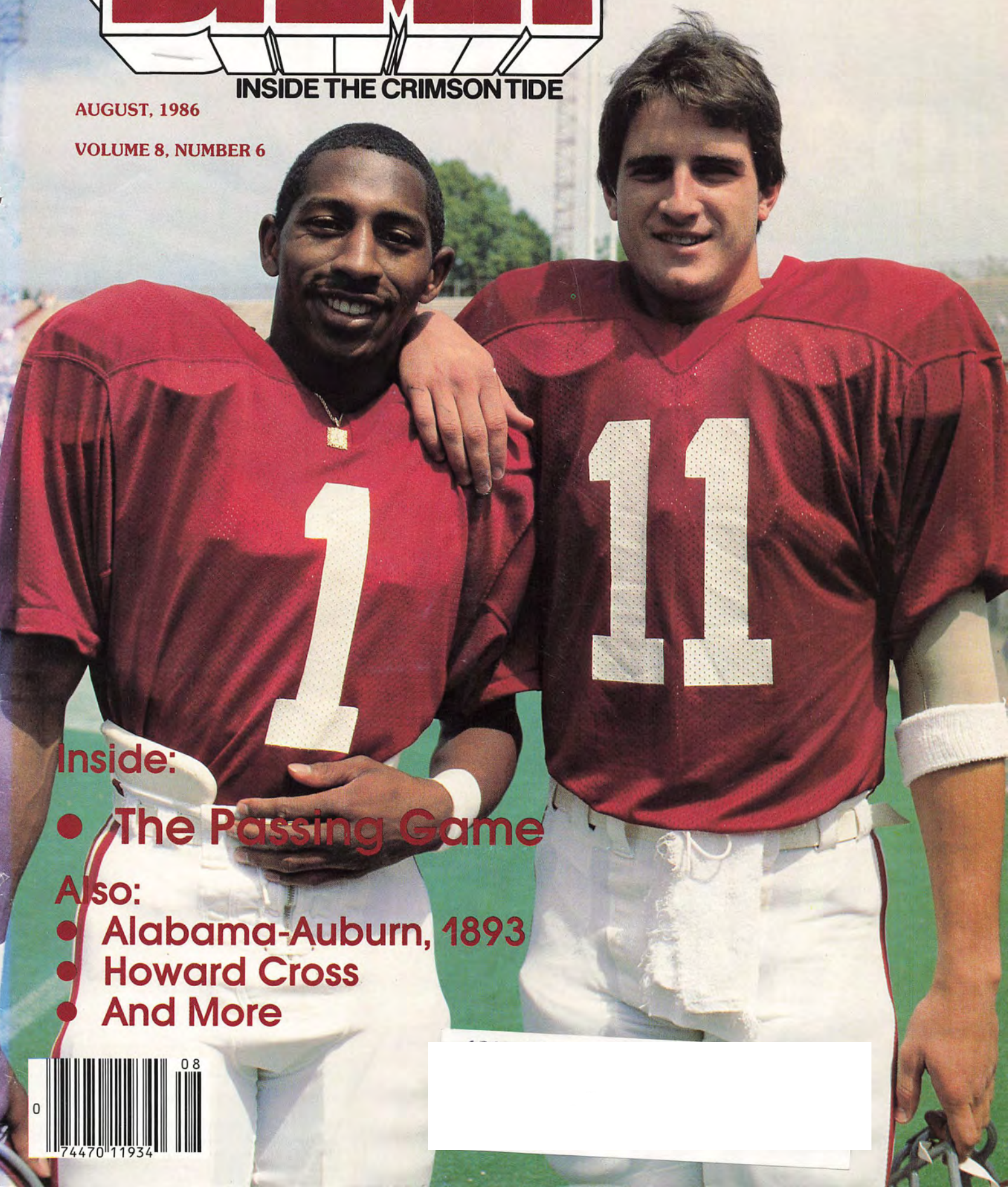


ALABAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

AUGUST, 1986

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 6



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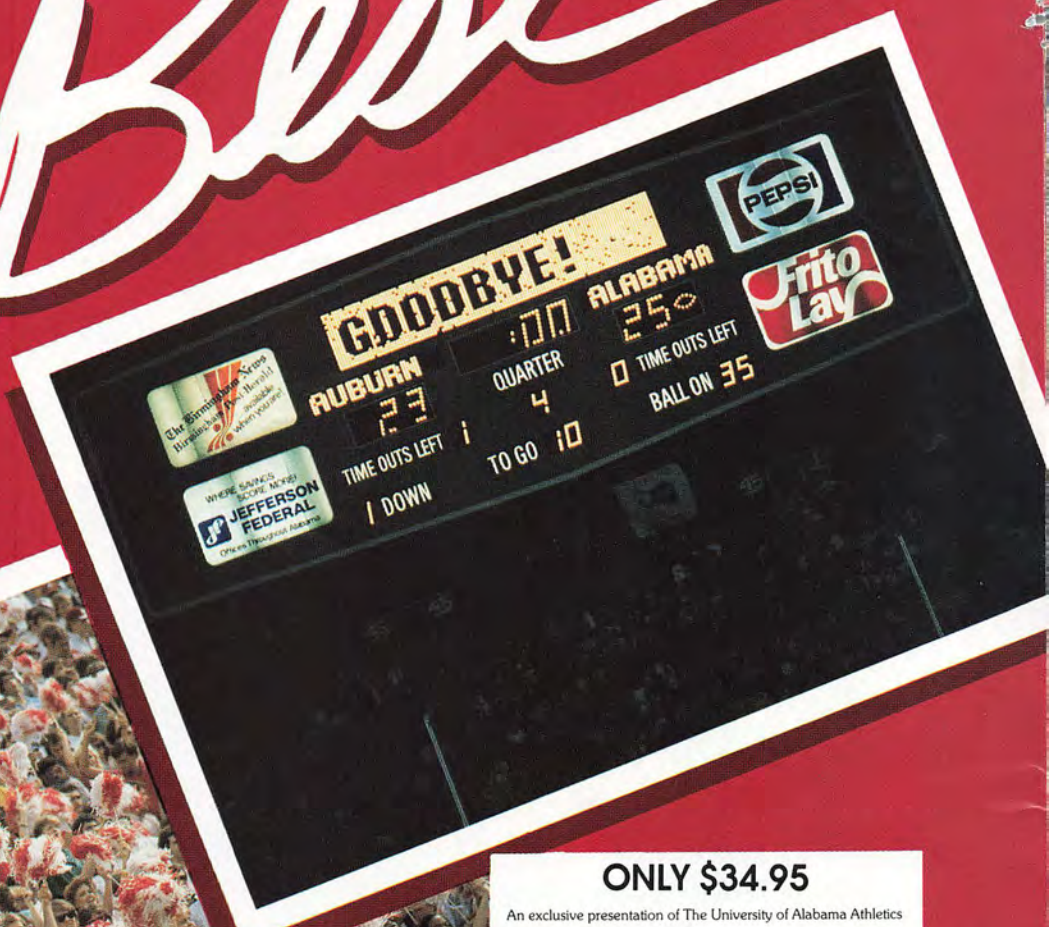
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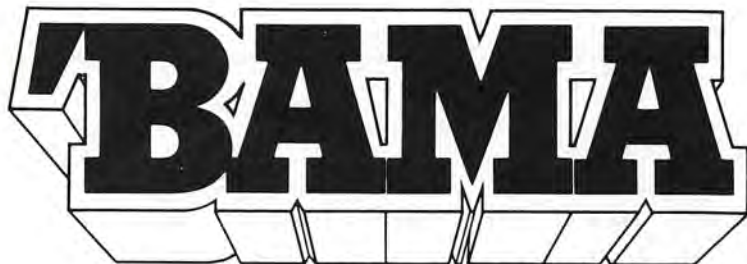
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Barry Fikes Photo



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Tiders Get Ready To Get Ready

by Kirk McNair

Summertime and the living is not easy for Bama football players involved in a rigorous conditioning program

Ohio State is helping Alabama football players get ready for the 1986 season. Not that the Buckeyes are intentionally giving aid and comfort to the enemy. It's just that Crimson Tiders find it easier to push themselves in an offseason conditioning program knowing the football season is nigh.

There are two periods of offseason work. The first is following the regular season. Players toil in that program to get ready for spring training. Not counting psychopaths, rare is

the player who is anxious for spring training to begin. The second offseason work period is during the summer, which precedes fall drills, which precedes Saturday excitement.

The first of those exciting Saturdays is actually a Wednesday, when Bama tangles with Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey, August 27. The Tide will begin actual preparation with incoming freshmen reporting July 30, returning players coming in Au-

gust 2, and fullscale work in pads getting underway August 7.

Meanwhile up to 110 Tiders (including most of the incoming freshmen) have been working away in Tuscaloosa's summer heat preparing for those practice sessions. The uniform is shoes, shorts and shirts (and sometimes not shirts). The quarterbacks and wide receivers and kickers also take a ball along occasionally, but for the most part the work has no more resemblance to football than does the uniform. (Indeed, if a football is around, players are careful to have no more than two or three of their number working to make sure that the work can not be construed as practice.)

Position coaches are prohibited by NCAA edict from even attending the workouts. The observers/instructors are from the strength program, Strength Coach Kent Johnston and his graduate assistant, Rod Springer.

The summer offseason program is technically a class, open to anyone interested in spending two to three hours per day either lifting weights or running. To the surprise of no one, athletes are the only ones who volunteer to take the class, at least for more than a day or two. The "class" has very flexible hours. Johnston and Springer are on the job early and leave late. "They have a lot of freedom as to when they workout," said Johnston. "They know that at some point during the day they have to devote two or three hours to this."

There are also times during the summer when a player wants to take a long weekend

Alabama Strength Coach Kent Johnston oversees the summer conditioning work of Crimson Tide football players. Barry Fikes Photo



for a social or recreational event, and that's permitted. "Coach (Ray) Perkins told the players at the end of spring training that he wanted each one of them to make his own plan for the summer and he wanted that plan to include a vacation," said Johnston. "What they have done by making that plan is have a consistent summer program." A player not having a firm plan is akin to going on that diet beginning next week. There's always a next week. "Most of our guys have access to weights at home," said Johnston. "There are all sorts of health clubs and YMCAs and their old high school weight rooms and so forth, but a player really has to be motivated to run like he needs to run in an offseason program. And we want our players running a little more than they do most places."

And run they do. The program for everyone is five days. Generally speaking, the linemen and linebackers have a more strenuous



Strength development is a year-round program for football players, but not to the exclusion of speed and agility work.

Barry Fikes Photo

Jimmy Wilson

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Running in the summer heat is expected to have Alabama football players in top condition for the 1986 season. Practice for the autumn game begins in early August. Barry Fikes Photo

lifting program, working in the weight room four or five days per week and running four days a week. Skill position players lift three days per week and run five days per week. "And quarterbacks have their own program," added Johnston. Quarterbacks don't need massive weight and strength. However, there is one area—a somewhat surprising one—where quarterbacks are given extra weight room attention. "They need extra hip and abdominal strength," said Johnston. That snap a quarterback needs passing the football or a baseball pitcher needs comes from the pull through the hips and abdomen.

As fulltime practice neared the running program was to be altered to change the distances to more approximate football running. "It's very intense now," said Johnston

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in mid-July. "We may run 10 220s, running each in 34 seconds with 90 second rests in between each one. As we get closer to the season we'll have the linemen sprinting 10-yard dashes—lots of them—and the skill position players doing 40s, 60s and 70s."

Although most of the players would prefer to run in the relative cool of the morning or evening—and some do—there are also many who run in the heat of the day. "It's a mental thing for them, to know they can do it," said Johnston. "We think it's a plus for us to have guys who are used to working in these conditions. Of course, we monitor the outdoors work very closely. We give them frequent water breaks and watch for any danger signs."

Once upon a time, when Alabama was running the football roost in the mid-1960s with small, quick players, offseason work was divided about equally into work on quickness, agility, conditioning and strength. In recent years the emphasis has shifted to strength. Johnston doesn't think that trend will end. "A stronger athlete is a better athlete and he can't be competitive if he neglects that aspect of training," he said. "On the other hand, it's not just body building. A guy who lifts too much without flexibility work loses his athletic ability. He's got to have speed and quickness, too."

He said those players who have gone through the summer program "should be the strongest they will be at any time of the year when fall practice begins."

Johnston is very pleased with the number of players who elected to spend all or part of the summer on campus working out. "I



Rod Springer, a graduate assistant strength coach, spots as a Tider gets in his lifts.

Barry Fikes Photo

talk to strength coaches all over the country and I'd be willing to bet that no school has more of its players on campus during the summer than we do," he said. He attributes it to various factors.

"Certainly the facility is one big factor," he said. "Our older players remember the old weight room we had. Now we've got the finest in the country and they appreciate that. You don't see any weights thrown around or anything like that in here." Randy Rockwell, Bama's outside linebacker who is recuperating from a knee injury last fall, echoes that feeling. "It's got that certain feeling to it," he said of the spacious (55 stations) facility. "Everything's so clean and new. There's no question it's conducive to working out."

Johnston also cites camaraderie. "We've recruited high quality people as well as high quality players and they enjoy each other's company and they have the same goal," he said. They are also competitors, and he lists that as a reason. "Take a couple of guys like Joe Godwin and Philip Brown," he said. "They are about the same size and have about the same strength level and they are both linebackers. They work out together each day and they have made dramatic progress. It's because they really work hard and each one pushes to not get outdone by the other."

He also thinks the upcoming schedule helps. "We talked about how tough our schedule was going to be this year," he said. "We also told them their work habits got them through last year. They were hungry when they came in last year after the disappointment of the 1984 season (5-6, no bowl game). Last year we won some close games in the clutch and one of the reasons for that is we had guys who had done that extra work in getting ready to play. Last year we were 9-2-1 which is a good record a lot of places but isn't a great Alabama season. And so our players are hungry to do better again this year."

Leadership is another factor. "It helps when your best players are the ones who work hardest in the weight room and in the running drills," he said. "Guys like Wayne Davis, Ricky Thomas, Mike Shula, Cornelius Bennett and so on are the leaders in here as well as on the football field. The younger players come in and see an All-America like Cornelius Bennett busting himself to run good times, taking short breaks, and busting some more get the idea that if they want to be All-Americans they are going to have to get bigger, stronger and faster. They've got enough maturity to realize that."

"They can also see a Mike Shula who is a good—not great, good—athlete who has be-

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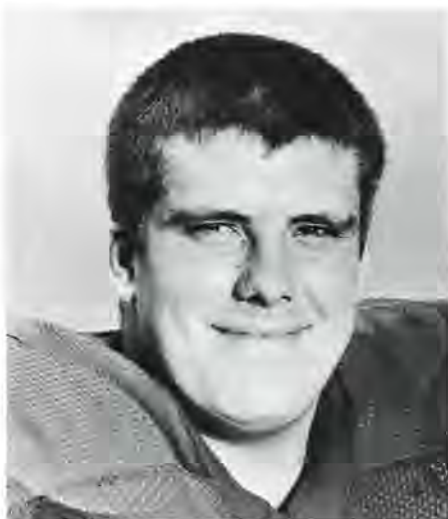
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come a great player. Because of his name people think he's a natural, but in truth Mike is the product of hard work. Anyone who has seen him working in the weight room and on the track knows he has made himself.

"I think it's normal for a guy out of high school to not know how to work," said Johnston. "They have been high school stars, many of them without having to work too hard. Then they come in here and see our older guys doing it and they realize how it has to be done."

Last year Larry Rose checked into Tuscaloosa for the second semester of summer school prior to his freshman season. He was one of the most highly-regarded players in the country as a high school senior and, because of an injury to Gary Otten in early fall work, ended up an 12-game starter at strong tackle. However, he did not have a great season. (In the spring he was moved to guard and Tide coaches are convinced he can be an outstanding player there.)

"I think I have a lot better idea now of what it takes to be in good shape," said Rose. "It means a lot to have been here and to have seen what it takes to be ready to play. Plus, I feel like I have more of a responsibility to be in good shape now. Last year I came in at about 282 and during the course of the season got up to 295. This summer I've disciplined myself on what to eat and I have worked hard on my running." The result: he is down to 268. "He's come farther than anyone," said Johnston. "He's done a lot on his



Larry Rose

own. He'll come in and do his program, then come back and do some more." Rose was married this summer (to the former Karen Nix of Gadsden) and Johnston said "I want to shake her hand. She's really watching what he eats."

Although Rose has gotten stronger, he is most pleased that he is faster and in better condition.

This year's incoming freshman class is one of the nation's most highly-touted, and a number of the biggest names have spent part of the summer in Tuscaloosa. The most-celebrated of the newcomers may be quarterback Billy Ray. Ray worked out on his own in

the early part of the summer, then took part in the Florida-Georgia All-Star Game before reporting in. "To tell the truth, once I got here I wished I had come sooner," he said. "Before the all-star game I had been running and lifting hard, but the 11 days we spent at all-star camp were mostly just having fun. I got a little behind in my workouts and I'm having to tough it out to get in shape."

If Ray is not Alabama's best-known signee, then Pierre Goode is. Goode is not only an outstanding football player, he is also one of the nation's top trackmen. So what has this young man who won the 300-meter dash in three national meets this summer before checking into Tuscaloosa found most difficult about the offseason program? "The running," he said. "It's very different from the kind of training I do in track. In track there's a lot of rest between runs. In football it's run, run, run all the time. You go out and run quarter-miles one day and the next day you run 40s or 60s or 100s. It's more to get you in shape."

In addition to Ray and Goode, among the incoming freshmen who have been in the summer program include Charlie Abrams, Danny Cash, Terrill Chatman, Jeff Dunn, Spencer Hammond, Byron Holdbrooks, Gary Hollingsworth, Greg Kiker, David Lenoir, John Mangum, Lee Ozmint, Kevin Penny, Chris Robinette, Lee Rockwell, Lamonde Russell, Roger Shultz, Mike Smith, Scott Tucker, Glenn Watts, Willie Wyatt and Mike Zuga.

A Different Offseason For The Wounded

Cornelius Bennett doesn't go into Alabama's weight room, grab a barbell, and begin pumping iron. Bennett had minor surgery on his wrist following spring training and so his summer lifting program was modified. "That's one place the machines come in because a guy can get his lift work done without gripping the bar as with free weights," explains Alabama Strength Coach Kent Johnston. Johnston also hastens to add that Bennett will be fully recuperated and able to use that hand to grab opposing ball carriers when Bama opens the 1986 football season.

For Bennett and other Tiders who have been injured, the offseason program includes rehabilitation in the training room as well as in the weight room and on the running track.

It has oft been noted that the knee was not designed for football. As a result, most of the injured are recuperating from various knee ailments. And most are expected to be at or near fullspeed when fall practice begins.

All-star center Wes Neighbors suffered a spring knee injury that did not require surgery and he is close to 100 percent. Starting outside linebacker Randy Rockwell had surgery following a knee injury last fall. He, too, is nearly 100 percent. Rockwell's replacement during part of last season, Lydell Mitchell, suffered

a knee injury during Aloha Bowl preparation, then irritated it during the spring, but should have no ill effects this fall.

Butch Lewis, a long snapper and backup center, has undergone knee surgery during the past two springs. He is likely to be redshirted this year. Murry Hill suffered a broken ankle in the spring and is also expected to be redshirted. Walkon linebacker Trip Derryberry suffered a knee injury in the spring of 1985 and aggravated the injury in a non-football accident last winter. He will stay involved in the program, but will no longer participate in football. Three other Tiders may be finished: Offensive lineman Waymon McGriff suffered a broken ankle last fall and had not healed sufficiently to take part in contact work in the spring; tight end Earnest Carroll suffered a back injury in the spring; and center Scott Meredith suffered a knee injury which required surgery last fall.

Others who have had knee injuries and who are expected to be ready to go this fall are split end Darryl Thomas, who had surgery in spring, 1985; strong safety Shon Lee, who had arthroscopic surgery for a spring, 1986, injury; noseguard Cliff Thomas, who had surgery in the spring of 1985; and center Mike Burkett, who was operated on last fall.

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Moving Into Position

by Donald F. Staffo

Tight end is one of the more difficult spots on a football team and Bama is going with an untested performer there

In the Alabama offense, the tight end has to be big enough and strong enough to block for the running game, and also mobile enough to get open and then catch the football and run with it in the passing game.

It is a hard position to fill, says Alabama Offensive Coordinator George Henshaw, who coaches that position for the Crimson Tide.

"If you go out and get a wide receiver and make him a tight end he can catch the ball, but he can't block effectively. And if you go out and get a lineman he can block, but he can't catch the ball. So it's a unique position."

Because of the combination of skills required not everyone can play tight end. Last

year at this time Thornton Chandler had a lock on the position. He was a senior with experience, size and speed. He would go on to be elected Bama's offensive captain and be drafted by the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League.

Bama will open fall drills in early August preparing to meet Ohio State in the Kickoff



Alabama tight end Howard Cross is already an accomplished blocker, but in order for him to be a complete football player and earn the starting job—he needs to become a better pass catcher.

Barry Fikes Photo

Classic at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey, August 27. Number one on the depth chart at tight end when that practice begins will be a man who has never caught a college pass. That's right. Howard Cross, the projected starter going into the season, will be manning a critical position on one of the nation's best college football teams and yet he is still looking to latch onto his first collegiate spiral.

Last year Cross, a 6-5, 222-pound sophomore from New Hope, worked his way to second team behind Chandler. However, in truth, he usually played *with* rather than *in place of* Chandler. Cross saw most of his action when Bama went to two or three tight ends for blocking strength on short yardage running situations. He also played on the kickoff return and punt coverage special teams. He saw action in every game and was one of the ten true freshmen who earned a letter in 1985.

Cross doesn't feel the pressure of being a projected starter. "I try to stay away from pressure," Cross said. "Pressure can cause stress and tension and that will result in mistakes. I look at it as a team effort. Once the game starts, with guys like Wes Neighbors, Mike Shula and Al Bell in there, I'll just get into the flow. I know I've got a job to do, so I've got to concentrate and not get caught up in all the excitement."

Henshaw notes that "Sure there's going to be pressure on him, but there was pressure on him last year too. When you go into the game in a goal line situation, that's pressure."

There's also pressure on Cross to catch that first pass—and others. "I certainly hope he can be a good pass catcher," said Henshaw. "His strength is his blocking and his weakness right now is his hands. But he's been working on that. Howard's biggest asset is that he's a good, solid person you can depend on. He's a hard-working, dedicated football player who practices and plays hard every day. He's going to improve and get better every year. It means something to Howard Cross to play winning football. That's what impresses me the most about him."

Cross earned the respect of the Crimson Tide coaches last year. "Howard came from a very small high school and there was a big difference in the competition of college football compared to what he had been used to," said Bama Assistant Coach Sylvester Croom. "But that didn't seem to affect him. He made a contribution to our football team when no one really expected him to. Whatever challenges Howard may be confronted with, he

AUGUST '86/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

A MUST FOR EVERY TIDE FAN'S LIBRARY

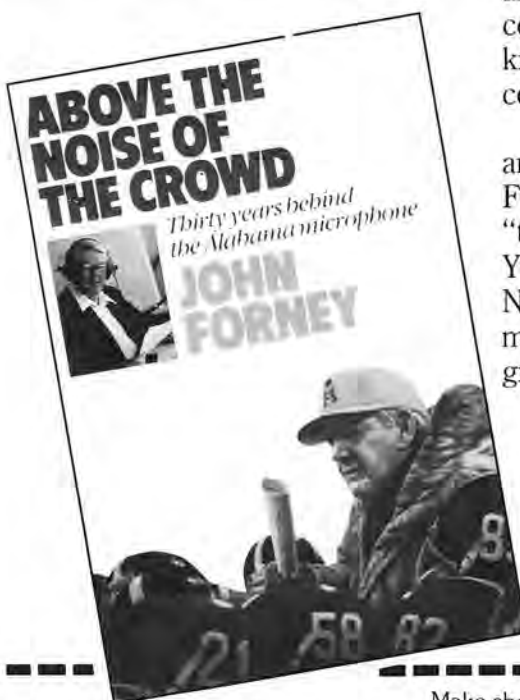
Here it is. John Forney's remembrances of 30 years of broadcasting Alabama football games, including those when Paul Bryant led the Crimson Tide to previously undreamed of heights. Forney recalls all and tells much in a no-holds-barred, "warts and all" narrative that one moment elicits tears and the next gales of laughter.

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accepts them and faces them head on. He doesn't worry about why he should or should not do something. He just goes ahead about his business and gets the job done."

Big, but soft-spoken, Cross has analyzed his situation and seems in control of it. As he readies for his second season at the Capstone, Cross says it is still a learning process. "It's like in school where you learn something and get tested on it at the end of the week. Last year I was learning, and I still am. But now I've got to take the test. I've got to perform in the games. How well I do is dependent upon how well I studied and how much time I put into it."

Cross is fully aware of the challenge. "My role this year will be to fill Thornton's shoes—to block; to pose a threat as a receiver so the defense knows I'm there; and to catch the ball if it's called for, which will be primarily in situations such as third and six or seven."

And he's aware of the competition. While Cross will almost certainly start out fall drills number one, the job is his only to win or lose. He knows it is not being handed to him. "It depends on who's looking good," he said. "Angelo Stafford is faster than I am and he blocks well. Plus, being a former quarterback and wide receiver he has great hands. He's also got good size (6-5, 200)." The main concern about Stafford, who had an exceptional spring game, is whether he has earned enough credits to be eligible this fall. However, Stafford has spent the summer in Tuscaloosa, going to school and working out in preparation for the season.

Gene Newberry, 6-2, 216, is a former quarterback who was moved to tight end in the spring. Newberry, who has lived in an apartment with quarterback Mike Shula during the summer, has been working hard on the weights, trying to get his weight up to 225.

Another who was moved to tight end late in the spring is former fullback Bernard Bennett, a 6-0, 221-pound redshirted freshman.

"It could be a freshman, too," Cross said. If so that would be Charlie Abrams, a 6-4, 220-pounder from Demopolis, the only tight end Alabama signed this spring. Abrams also reported to Tuscaloosa in midsummer to begin working out.

"They are all great athletes," said Cross of his teammates. "It's going to be tough."

For that tough battle, Cross has been preparing himself. Physically he's trying to gain about five pounds for this season with an eventual goal of playing at 240. He wants to get stronger. He's been involved in a weight program and can now bench 290 pounds



Howard Cross

with a goal of 350. He can squat 420 and expects to push that total up.

"Right now I'm eating and lifting and lifting and eating," he said. He's also running about ten sprints of 60 to 440 yards each day. Sometimes he runs with linemen and pushes himself to stay in front. Sometimes he runs with backs and wide receivers and pushes himself to keep up with them.

He's also working on the mental aspect, trying to get in the proper frame of mind. "The way I look at it, we're all men, and the one who gives his best will be playing on Saturdays," he said. "As a freshman I was intimidated a little bit. No one tried to intimidate me or hurt me, but I'd never seen big men move that fast or seen that much weight going up on a bar. Everything about the program had me in awe. Now I feel more a part of the team. Last year I was like a little wheel. I'm still not a big wheel, but I feel more a part of the machinery."

Cross was only 17 years old when he entered Alabama, following a senior high school season in which he totaled close to 900 yards in offense from his tight end position and made first team all-state for his linebacker play. Like most freshmen, he found his first year of college to be an adjustment period. His teammates helped to cushion the bumps on what could have been a rocky road.

"Guys like Wayne Davis, Ricky Thomas, Craig Turner and Thornton did a lot of talking to me, giving me pointers on the field and telling me not to worry about things," said Howard. "The guys almost adopted me like

a little brother. It helped having someone like Ricky Thomas to go to when you had a problem. They made me feel comfortable and at home here. They set the example and I watched and tried to follow."

He also credits active membership in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for help in adjusting to his new life. "I've been a Christian since I was 12, but I'm not outspoken," he said. "Some of the guys asked me to attend an FCA meeting last year. I went and from then on it's been automatic."

Last year Cross said he needed a lot of help from his friends. This year he thinks he'll have the confidence to be a winning football player. "I know I need some work to get better," he said. "Even though I know perfection is impossible, that has to be the goal we strive for."

He describes himself as "not extremely fast or extremely strong, but I have nice size (for a tight end). I try to have a working knowledge of the game. The coaches tell me I block well, but I have to learn to concentrate more so I can catch the ball better. There are some days that I catch flawlessly and there are other days when I couldn't catch a head cold."

The coaches also like his attitude. In their lingo, he is very coachable. "His biggest asset is his intense desire to be a good football player and his willingness to work," said Croom. "And he's also an outstanding individual who has a genuine concern and love for people. He has these kinds of traits and is able to communicate them without appearing phony. He is a very loving individual and that's probably a rare trait in a big football player."

Alabama Sports Information Director Wayne Atcheson has been involved with Cross off the field as well as on. "Howard has a good mind and a good heart," said Atcheson. "He has a calmness about him and a real sensitivity toward people. The thing that strikes me about Howard is his ability to express himself so well at such a young age. I've heard him talk to church groups and he was creative; had something to say that he had given a great deal of thought to."

One thing Cross has to say is "At the end of the season I don't want to be in a position of saying 'If I . . .,' or 'I could have . . .,' or 'I should have . . .'. That would mean I've done something wrong, or was in a position to do something right and didn't."

Howard Cross is a breath of fresh air. He has a sense of perspective and his priorities are in order. His life is planned and organized with a purpose. Part of the plan, he says, is to wear a diamond ring—the one given to National Champions.

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A Passing Fancy

by Tommy Deas

Alabama's air attack should pay big dividends

Consider them as two bookends to a highly successful 8-2-1 1985 regular season for the Alabama Crimson Tide—the 35-second, 71-yard touchdown drive that beat Georgia 20-16 and the 57-second, 45-yard drive to a last-second field goal that downed Auburn 25-23.

In between those two epic come-from-behind victories, a junior quarterback who had previously been better known as the son of a pro football coach and a flanker who made his way to Southeastern Conference football from Los Angeles via Coffeyville, Kansas, became the stellar performers of an Alabama passing attack whose heroism was the difference between an average offense and an effective one.

Senior quarterback Mike Shula, son of Miami Dolphins Head Coach Don Shula, and Al Bell, a transfer who came to Alabama from Coffeyville Junior College, connected on a 17-yard touchdown pass with 15 seconds left to stun the roaring Georgia crowd in the 1985 season opener for both schools. That was the first clue as to what the Crimson Tide passing game had waiting for the rest of the season.

"Going into fall practice I knew we had a much improved passing game," Shula recalls, "especially with Al Bell coming in and everyone else including myself with an added year of experience. The Georgia game exposed it.

"That was a great win. I think it meant more to us than we thought it did at the time."

What began to sink in after that stunning victory in Athens was the reality of what had happened. Alabama had lost its lead on a blocked punt and received the ensuing kick-off with just 50 seconds left in the game. The Alabama players nervously huddled and broke for the first play. Shula went for it all, passing long down the left sideline and over-throwing an open Kerry Goode.

"I was kicking myself in the back of the

head," Shula said, "because I knew if I had hit him he could have gone all the way. I know I realized and Kerry realized we could find open spaces in their defense."

And in his next four passes, two of them to Bell for 30 and 17 yards, Shula exposed those holes with completions that took the Crimson Tide down the field for the final score. Alabama had beaten the clock, and with 15 seconds to spare.

The thing that made it all so hard to believe was that this was a traditionally ground-oriented Alabama team that had amassed only 1,241 yards passing in 1984 under the quarterbacking direction of time-sharing starters Shula and Vince Sutton in a disappointing 5-6 season. Alabama Head Coach Ray Perkins made some changes, installing Shula as his unquestioned number one man at quarterback, bringing in the likes of Bell to provide top quality receiving talent, and even taking over the responsibilities of quarterback coach himself (as he had as head coach of the New York Giants).

Bell made his mark in the dramatic Georgia win, and became an All-SEC receiver in the games that followed.

"I had confidence in myself and Mike Shula," Bell says. "I felt it would be a long way into the season before we got into the passing game, but we got our backs to the wall in a pressure situation and showed what we could do.

"I don't feel that (game) brought out the potential of the passing game—it just gave everybody confidence in Mike Shula and myself as a newcomer."

It had Alabama fans eager to chuck the conservative running game that had worked effectively in the early going against Georgia in favor of a more wide-open scheme, but more importantly it had the players believing in themselves.

"I think that Coach Perkins brought us along slowly, especially in the passing

When Alabama quarterback Mike Shula drops back to pass, he has more than his arm going for him. He has a keen intelligence of football and outstanding receivers.

Barry Fikes Photo



game," Shula said, "and it gave us confidence in ourselves and it gave him confidence in us."

With that new-born confidence, the Alabama passing game became the trademark of a season that was just seven points short of ending undefeated. And if those seven points had been scored, it's a safe bet they would have involved Shula and Bell.

Even the low points of the season were among the brightest moments a revived passing game produced in amassing 1,999

yards on the season. (Shula passed for 2,009 yards, but a minus 15-yard pass on a broken play field goal dropped Bama's team total below the 2,000-yard mark.)

- There was Shula's 29-yard completion to Bell on fourth-and-19 at Louisiana State that set up a score for a 14-14 tie. On that play Bell shook off one defender who was flagged for interfering with his path to the ball before making the catch. There was also Bell's first-quarter block that took three play-

ers out of the play to spring Gene Jelks for a 33-yard touchdown run, showing that the passing game could also contribute on the run.

- There was Shula's 48-yard bomb to Bell in a 19-17 loss at Penn State, a pass which started a 40-second scoring drive that brought the Tide within three points of a win, but which came too late.

- There was Shula's 23-yard strike to Bell with just seconds left against Tennessee, which set up a 61-yard field goal attempt by Van Tiffin that fell just short in a 16-14 loss.

And as Bell became Shula's favorite target, catching 37 passes for 648 yards to lead the team and averaging 17.5 yards per catch, the rest of the Alabama receiving corps began to get the idea and complement him. One of Bell's most amazing feats was chalking up a first down or a touchdown on 36 of 41 plays in which he handled the ball on a pass reception or run.

"You could realize a lot of different things when he came into winter workouts with his determination and with the amazing things he had done in spring practice," Shula remembers of Bell's arrival at Alabama. "He proved to everyone in the Georgia game what we already knew.

"He's great not only because of his physical aspects with his hands and concentration, but because of what he did for the other guys. Greg Richardson and Clay Whitehurst saw what he was doing catching the ball and I think it inspired them and the backs out of the backfield, too."

But Bell only made up half of Alabama's long-distance connection. He could not do the catching without the emergence of Shula as a first-rate quarterback, something that seemed to have happened suddenly.

Bell had heard when he was recruited by Alabama that Shula was not exactly a raw-boned, strong-armed rifleman in the pocket, but he soon found that Shula's heady confidence and inbred knowledge of the game could more than make up for a few yards in distance and a few miles per hour in passing velocity.

"When I made the decision to come here," Bell says, "people were asking why I didn't go somewhere where they've got a quarterback with a stronger arm who could get me the ball.

Alabama's Mr. Excitement, Al Bell, dances into the end zone with a 14-yard pass from Mike Shula for a touchdown in a 40-20 win over Vanderbilt in Nashville last year.

Photo Courtesy GO GOLD Magazine



"After I first threw with him, I wasn't skeptical at all. He didn't have as weak an arm as I had heard. I wonder where he got that reputation, but he told me that he had thrown a few butterflies the year before. I guess he had worked hard in the summer and got stronger."

It also didn't take long for Bell to recognize the mental qualities that make up Shula's game, qualities that Bell has come to greatly appreciate as a Tide receiver.

"The main thing that makes Mike a great quarterback in my mind is he's a great thinker," Bell says. "He reads defenses well and makes adjustments and he has so much knowledge of the game from living with his dad.

"From any football standpoint, intelligence is the main thing a quarterback needs. It doesn't matter how strong your arm is or how fast you can run if you aren't intelligent."

Intelligence on the field isn't something which Shula regards lightly in his arsenal of football talent. In fact, he credits his brainpower more than his armpower for his success.

"I don't think I could have made the jump from high school to college mentally the way I did without (his football knowledge)" Shula said. "I could sit up there my freshman year and look at the board and say this is what we need to do, but once you're in a game it's totally different."

No where did Shula illustrate just how far he has come in handling that difference than against Auburn. Alabama came out passing effectively in the first half only to see Auburn retake the lead with a determined rally. Faced with a long way to go and little time to get there, Shula turned once more to a passing game that had grown to include more than just a rising star named Al Bell for another miraculous comeback win.

Before Alabama's final completion of the regular season gave Tiffin the opportunity to pull the game out, though, Shula had to go to Bell on the ground on a crucial fourth-and-four. Bell took the ball around left end on a reverse, getting a key block in the backfield from Shula and rambling 20 yards before going out of bounds with 23 seconds left to go at the Alabama 46.

Using all of his experience two plays later, Shula faded back with 15 seconds left in the game, checked off two receivers and spotted Richardson loose over the middle. Shula waited patiently under a mild rush as the seconds counted down, finally tossed the ball to Richardson as he crossed, and watched the junior receiver drag a defender the final few steps to get out of bounds to stop the clock.

AUGUST '86/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

The play took the Crimson Tide to the Auburn 35, allowing Tiffin to kick the winning 52-yard field goal as the final six seconds ticked off.

"After you get through with the Georgia win," Shula said, "you never think you'll ever have another chance to win one like that again, and we get to later the same year.

"We didn't have much pressure on us (on the last pass). They rushed three and dropped eight, so we had time. They were in the coverage we wanted to get it to Greg. I realized that if I could give him a few seconds to give him time to get away from the defender, he would be more open and it would be a better place for me to throw the ball."

While the Auburn game closed the book on an exciting season for the Alabama passing game, it was only the end of the first of two chapters for Shula and Bell. They return as seniors this fall along with Richardson, Whitehurst and backfield targets like Jelks and Bobby Humphrey to make the returning Alabama passing game once again a potential perpetual motion threat on offense.

And while Alabama's final drives against Auburn and Georgia figure most prominently in the memories of those who followed Alabama last season, Bell would like the coming season to be a replay of another part of one of those games in the coming season—the first half of the Auburn game, where the Crimson Tide came out with a passing explosion instead of relying on the pass as a fallback position behind the running game.

"Between Georgia and Auburn," Bell says, "the passing game grew successfully much more than most people in Alabama thought it would. Greg caught some crucial passes and held on, and Clay Whitehurst had a good season. The passing game came 200 percent.

"It had to grow from the beginning of the season with Georgia, because that was a pressure situation. Right now I couldn't say what the passing game will do this year, but I feel like Mike Shula and Greg and Clay and I have proved that Alabama is not just a running team.

"I think now we have established what the passing game can do, and we need to stick with it. Being a receiver, I love to see the ball in the air. I feel we need to come out and throw just as deep as we can to let the defense know we're going to take it to them, and it's either a big gain or an incomplete."

While he approaches it in a more cautious, coaching-minded manner, Shula also endorses the idea of a more pass-conscious game plan for the coming season.

"With our talent in the passing game, of course we'll continue to throw the ball," Shula says. "But we've got people who can run it, too. I think (what the passing game has done) is a combination of both gaining confidence in our passing game throughout the year and what we thought was best against each opponent.

"I think I've gotten better just through experience. You learn a whole lot more about yourself through experience. That's why I feel I've gained in confidence in the last year, and Bell, Greg Richardson and Clay Whitehurst all have another year behind them, too."

Of course, quarterbacks and receivers don't make game plans—they just carry them out. So while Shula and Bell have every reason to hope that Perkins will allot them a good portion of the Alabama offense in 1986, they know that their coach is not a man to make rash wholesale changes of a scheme which proved effective in 1985.

"I feel if we threw the ball a little more," Bell says, "people couldn't help but notice what kind of receivers we've got at Alabama. A lot of teams are going to be watching me, and it kind of makes me feel good to be double-covered. It makes me feel like they respect me more, and that gives Greg and Clay both the opportunity to get open one-on-one.

"We'll just need to come back out and run our basic offense and go right at the heart of the defense and move it on the ground and pass if we have to. As long as we're moving the ball on the ground, I'm happy because it lets the defense know it's ours."

Shula isn't one to insist on a greater role for the passing game, either.

"As a quarterback, you always want to throw the ball," Shula said. "But the only thing that matters to me is winning, and it doesn't matter if we run or pass if we do that. The only way to continue to be where we are and improve is to keep working hard in the weight room and on the practice field."

Both Bell and Shula are quick to renew their commitment to work to improve. In the eyes of many Alabama fans their names are already connected by the feats they have accomplished together. Bell, for one, is looking forward to doing it all one more time.

"I guess it's us both practicing together and getting to know each other," Bell says. "He knows me and he knows the area I'm going to be in. You could say we were both reading and I looked down and I knew we were on the same page. Mike and I are on the same page."

So far for Alabama, it has been a page from a football bestseller.

Answers About First Auburn Game

by William R. Erwin Jr.

Research results in new knowledge of first Alabama-Auburn football game

*J. Blach & Sons, Clothiers
John Horgan, Jr.
Thomas Cowper Daniels
New Bern, North Carolina
Duke University
The Base Ball Park, Birmingham*

These seemingly disparate elements combine in a special way for fans of the Crimson Tide. The above persons, places and institutions contributed to the making, preservation, discovery and identification of rare action photographs of the first Alabama-Auburn football game. Although pictures of the teams that played in this game are published in the histories of football at both schools, no views of the actual game were printed, presumably because they were unavailable.

The contest occurred on February 22,

1893, at the Base Ball Park in Birmingham. It was a singular athletic event for a city then only two decades old. The news was even reported in distant New Bern, North Carolina, where the match was described as "the greatest game of foot ball ever seen in the South."

The citizens of New Bern were interested because that town's Tom Daniels, dubbed by the Richmond, Virginia, newspapers as the "Napoleon of Foot Ball," was captain of Auburn's team and a leader in that school's vic-

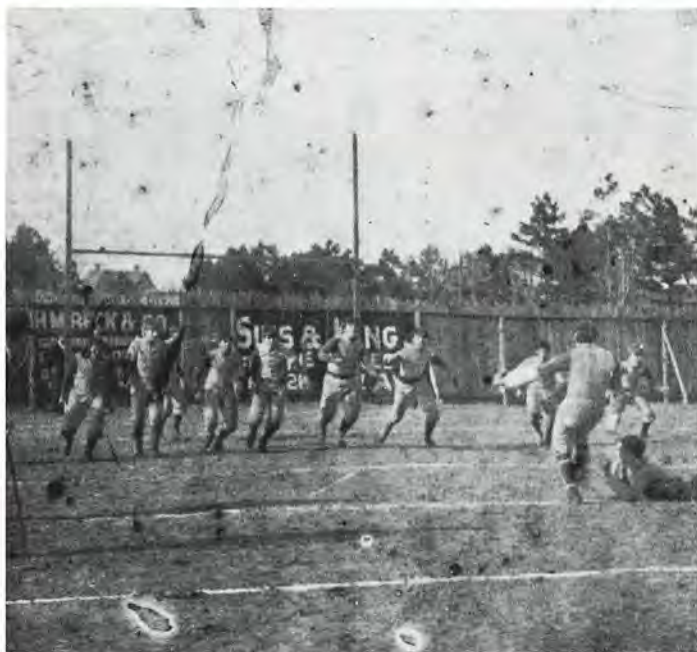
tory, 33-22. Daniels actually attended Auburn for only one term when he was a "special" student during the third quarter of 1892-93. His academic career was primarily in North Carolina where he graduated from Trinity College (later Duke University) in 1891. Afterwards he continued his education in Trinity's law and graduate schools.

As with the records of many alumni, some of Daniels' personal papers found their way back to Duke. They included a number of photographs, many of Trinity College, that were deposited in the Duke University Archives. Among these photographs were nine action pictures of an early, unidentified football game.

The game photos were obviously very old. Although they were undated, the style of the players' uniforms suggested the early days of football. The prints themselves, being albumen prints, indicated a 19th century date, as this photographic process faded from use as the new century began. If the pictures indeed dated from the late 1800s, then the scenes were from football's infancy. Both Alabama and Auburn, for example, played their first games in the fall of 1892. Trinity College began football in the late 1880s. How early were these photographs? What was the event recorded in them?

The billboard advertising J. Blach & Sons, Clothiers caught the attention of a Duke University Library curator examining old football photographs.





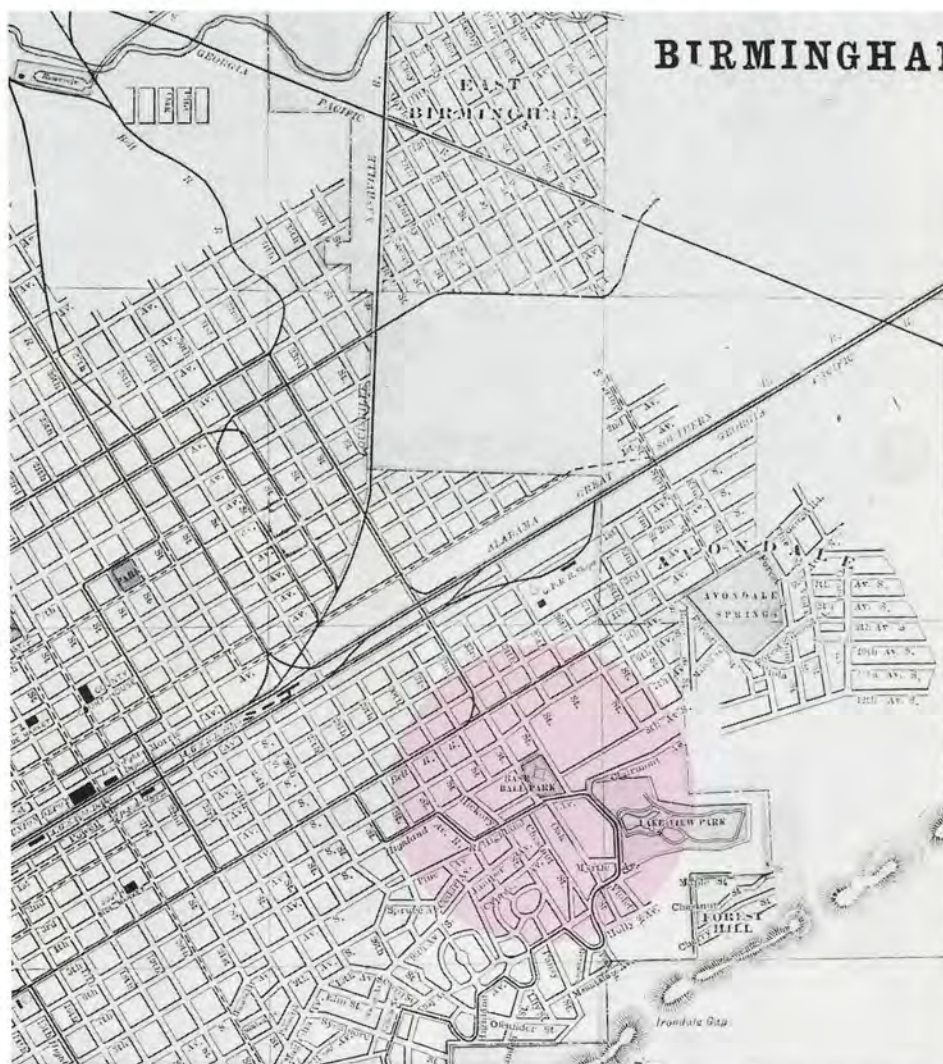
Tom Daniels kicked one successful goal and missed on another try in the first Alabama-Auburn game. Daniels' collection of papers and photographs, donated to Duke University, provides information about that first Alabama-Auburn contest.

Potential clues for answering these questions came from the photographer's name on the prints and from the advertising signs visible on the fence of the ballpark. One of these signs, "J. Blach & Sons, Clothiers," caught the eye of the author, a customer of Blach's and a native of the Birmingham area. This sign suggested Birmingham and led to a check of the other advertisers, including D.H. Baldwin & Co., the Empire Laundry Co., Steward & Friend, H. M. Beck & Co., and Sims & King.

The author consulted an 1897 Birmingham city directory at Duke Library and telephoned the Birmingham Public Library for information from the directories of 1891 and 1893. The information on the signs—business names, addresses, a telephone number, personnel—all matched listings in the city directories. The photographer, John Horgan Jr., appeared there also.

So, the game was in Birmingham. But, who were the players and when was the contest? The photographs again supplied clues. Captions on four of the pictures were crucial: "Dorsey Makes First Touchdown," "Daniels Fails Goal," "Daniels Kicks Goal," and "U.A.'s 15 Yardline." Since Daniels played for Auburn, Donald Plasse, a friend of the author, recommended a check in his copy of *War Eagle*, a history of Auburn football. The captions matched incidents that occurred

This section of an 1891 map of the City of Birmingham shows the site of the Base Ball Park just off Highland Avenue, very near to the then-popular Lakeview Park (now Highland Park/Charley Boswell Golf Course).



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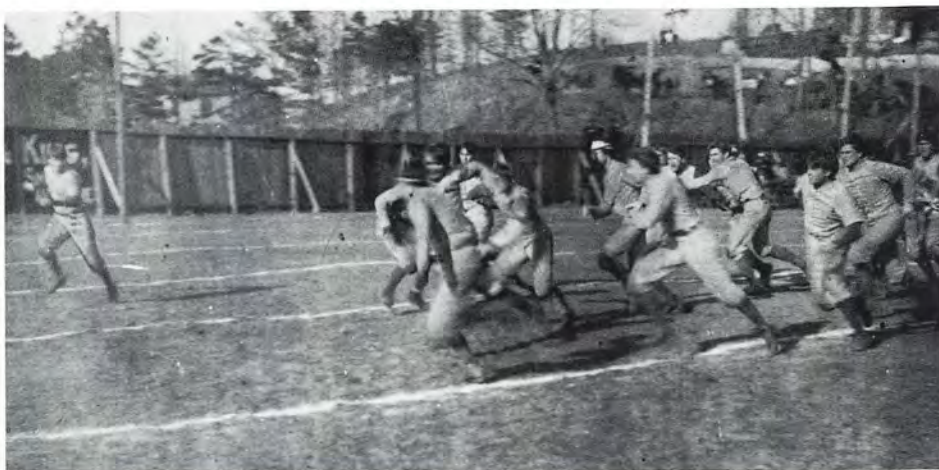
The football game was in Birmingham, but exactly where in the city did it take place? Legion Field, the current football stadium, did not exist. The geographical features seen in the photographs resembled those surrounding Munger Bowl at Birmingham-Southern, but that playing field had not yet been constructed. Most newspaper accounts, when consulted, referred to Lakeview Park, but the *Birmingham News* of February 23, reporting on “The Welcome to Foot Ball,” correctly stated that “Some 5,000 persons gathered at the Birmingham base ball park yesterday afternoon to see the two parties of school boys tumble over each other in the struggle to control the movements of a leathern foot ball.”

The image shows two pages of a vintage "Souvenir Foot Ball Score Card" from 1893. The left page is titled "YELLS AND COLORS" and lists various cheers and colors for the University of Alabama and Agricultural and Mechanical College. The right page is titled "FOOT BALL SCORE CARD" and includes the names of the teams, the location (Birmingham), and the date (February 22, 1893). Both pages are framed with decorative borders. Handwritten notes in ink are visible on the left page, including "Hullabaloo-Connect-Connect", "Wah-hee", "Look at the man", and "Buccelona Man". The right page has a small decorative emblem at the bottom center.

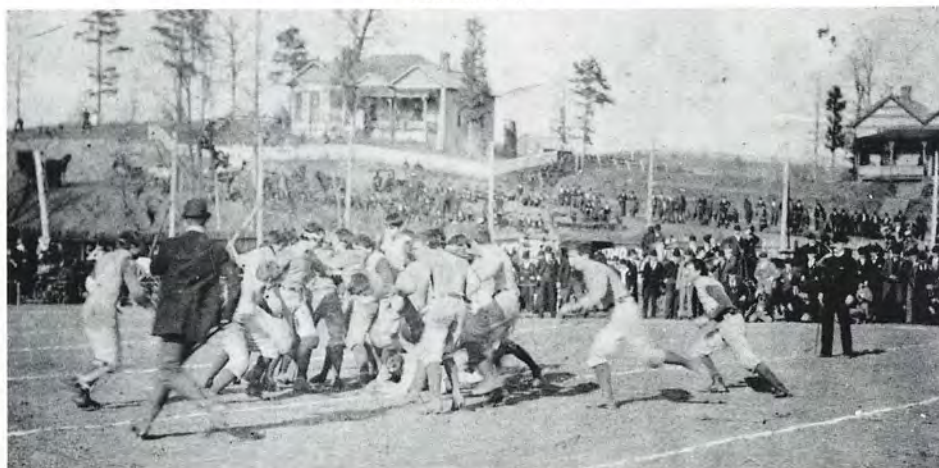
tension of Clairmont Avenue, this level stretch of ground has remained unoccupied by structures and in use as an informal playground. It is now being prepared for construction of the administrative headquarters building of Central Bank of the South. The terrain of the site, especially the hills over 33rd street and Highland Avenue, matches the landscape visible in the photographs. In one picture the streetcars parked along Highland Avenue are visible.

For Thomas Cowper Daniels of New Bern, North Carolina, the Alabama-Auburn football game of 1893 and the other games that he played for Auburn and Trinity College were his claim to fame. This "Napoleon of Foot Ball" returned to play for Trinity College in the autumn of 1893, and he also ran track at the University of Kentucky in 1894. Things were flexible in those early years of college athletics. Today it would seem strange to play as a graduate student at all, and current rules would prohibit it at three different schools.

Daniels' athletic career was important to him, and he recorded it in a scrapbook of newspaper clippings about the games in which he played. This scrapbook and Daniels' senior thesis at Trinity were given to the Manuscript Department of Duke University Library some years ago by his wife. Among the clippings was another treasure, the "Souvenir Foot Ball Score Card, University of Ala-



Around End



Good Gain

• THE ELEVENS •			
U. of A.		A. and M. C.	
FERGUSON		RIGGS	
ABBOTT		REDING	
LITTLE W. <i>Capt.</i>		BROWN L.	
PRATT		SHAPER W.	
COPE		MCKISSICK	
SAVAGE		BUCKALEW	
GRAYSON		FOY	
WALKER W.	—QUARTERBACK—	SMITH H. <i>Dunham</i>	
SMITH D.		SHACKETT FORD	
KYSER	—HALFBACKS—	DORSEY	
BANKHEAD	—FULLBACK—	DANIELS <i>Capt.</i>	
Subs.		Subs.	
MCCANTS		SHAPER G.	
NESMITH		DUNHAM	
WALKER P.		STEVENS	
JOHNSTON D.		LOVELESS	
POWERS J.		<i>Wills</i>	

• SCORE •		
University of Alabama		
GOALS	TOUCH DOWNS	SAFETIES
<i>Bankhead 11</i>	<i>abbett 1</i>	
<i>Smith 1</i>	<i>Grayson 1</i>	
<i>Misset Bankhead 1</i>	<i>Smith 1</i>	
<i>Bankhead 1</i>	<i>Bankhead 1</i>	
Total 3 = 6	4 = 16	
		22
Agricultural and Mechanical College		
GOALS	TOUCH DOWNS	SAFETIES
<i>Daniel 11</i>	<i>Dorsey 11</i>	
<i>Dorsey 1</i>	<i>Shackett 1</i>	
<i>Misset Daniel 1</i>	<i>Daniel 11</i>	
<i>Dorsey 1</i>		
Total 4 = 8	6 = 24	
		32
TOTAL SCORE		

bama vs. Agriculture and Mechanical College at Birmingham, February 22, 1893," a memento of this famous game.

Daniels eventually returned to New Bern where he worked in various business pursuits. His scrapbook and his photographs were there to remind him of his days of glory. February 22 in 1893 was one of those glories, a contest regarded by contemporary witnesses both as an especially fine game and as a significant athletic event for the new city of Birmingham. Still, neither Daniels nor the newspaper reporters could predict the future prominence of football and the rivalry between the Crimson Tide and the War Eagle. It is fortunate that John Horgan Jr. took these photographs of the 1893 game and that they were preserved by Daniels and others until they were safely stored in the Duke University Archives. The identification and publication of these action photographs of the first Alabama-Auburn football game is a significant event in the history of football.

Editor's Note: William R. Erwin Jr. is assistant curator for cataloging in the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Photographs used by permission of Duke University Archives.

Material from the scrapbook of Thomas Cowper Daniels used by permission of the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University.



Members of Alabama's first football team, the 1892 squad that concluded its season against Auburn in February, 1893, were (1) Eli Abbott, (2) Robert Boyle, (3) Manager F.T. Bush, (4) Henry Merrill Pratt, (5) Coach E.N. Beaumont, (6) Robert Cope, (7) D.H. Smith, (8) Frank Savage, (9) William Brockman Bankhead, (10) W.G. Little, (11) S.W. Henderson, (12) David Allison Grayson, (13) A.G. McCants, (14) William Mudd Walker, (15) Thomas Sydney Frazer, (16) Burr Ferguson, and (17) G.H. Kyser.

University of Alabama Photo

The First Alabama Team

Although both Alabama and Auburn played their first games in the fall of 1892 and their first game against each other in the winter following that first fall, the two schools disagree as to which season that game should be listed.

Alabama has the exact date of every football game in its history in its press guide and considers the February 22, 1893, game against Auburn the final game of the 1892 season (just as it considers numerous bowl games played on January 1 of one year the final game of the previous year).

Auburn does not list the exact dates of games in its press guide and shows the first Alabama-Auburn game as the opening game of 1893 rather than the final game of 1892 in its year-by-year scores. However, in a series history of the Alabama-Auburn game the Auburn press guide lists the first game as 1892.

Mr. Erwin's research pinpointing the location of the first Alabama-Auburn game casts some doubt as to the site of Alabama's first football game. Bama records show the first

game on Friday, November 11, 1892, against "a picked team from Professor Taylor's school and Birmingham high schools" at Lakeview Park. This game may, too, have actually been at the Ball Park.

Alabama's four-game schedule in its first season of 1892-93 was entirely in Birmingham. After the 56-0 shellacking over the high school players in the opener, Bama split a pair with the Birmingham Athletic Club, losing 4-5 on November 12 (the day following the first game) and gaining revenge 14-0 on December 10.

W.G. Little of Livingston is credited with bringing football to Alabama. He was captain and left guard on Alabama's first team. Other starters were Burr Ferguson of Birmingham at left end, Eli Abbott of Tuscaloosa at left tackle, Henry Merrill Pratt of Prattville at center, Robert Cope of Union Springs at right guard, Frank Savage of Centre at right tackle, David Allison Grayson of Gurley at right end, William Mudd Walker of Birmingham at quarterback, D.H. Smith of Anniston at left halfback, G.H. Kyser of Richmond (Ala-

bama) at right halfback and William Brockman Bankhead of Fayette at fullback.

Substitutes listed on the Auburn game "program" included A.G. McCants of Meridian, Mississippi, C.C. Nesmith of Vernon, M.P. Walker of Birmingham, D.B. Johnson of DeSotoville (Alabama), and a J. Powers, who is not listed in Alabama lettermen records or pictured in a photograph of the first team.

Alabama does list some other members of that first team who are not included in the roster from the Auburn game. They are R.E. Boyle of Birmingham, Thomas Sydney Frazer of Union Springs, S.W. Henderson of Talladega and Bibb Graves of Montgomery.

The coach of that first team was E.N. Beaumont of Pennsylvania. Alabama's first season record of 1-2-1 did not set well with Bama fans. Alabama's school yearbook, the *Corolla*, reported: "We were unfortunate in securing a coach. After keeping him for a short time, we found that his knowledge of the game was very limited. We therefore 'got rid' of him."

—Kirk McNair

BAMA SCORECARD

Not So Fast

The ink was hardly dry on the national letter-of-intent signed by Thomas Rayam before problems developed for the outstanding football prospect. Rayam, a 6-7, 265-pound defensive tackle from Orlando, Florida, was Bama's last signee of the year. He had been rumored as leaning towards Oklahoma or Florida, but said after signing Alabama had been his first choice all along. The reason given for his delay in signing was he wanted to make sure he was academically eligible. However, after he signed, his mother told *The Tuscaloosa News* he had not scored well enough on a national standardized test to meet NCAA academic requirements for football participation. Nevertheless, she said, he will enter Bama this fall. He will have to sit out a year, which will be lost insofar as football is concerned, and will have to become eligible in order to have three years of playing time beginning in 1987.

He was an all-state and All-Dixie performer who was outstanding at defensive tackle in the Florida-Georgia All-Star Game this summer.

Rayam is not the only incoming freshman struggling with academic eligibility. Four other signees are listed as no better than borderline—running back William Kent of Rome, Georgia, fullback Robert Stewart of Houston County, lineman Anthony Ramsay of Gulfport, Mississippi, and lineman Trent Patterson of Syracuse, New York. Kent's teammate, linebacker Spencer Hammond, apparently has qualified. Kent told *The Atlanta Journal* he did not expect to be eligible this season, but would enroll at Alabama and sit out the year.

While entering The University and sitting out the season is an option, there are others. Players can elect to go to junior college, play two years of football, graduate from junior college, and then be eligible for the NCAA member school of their choice. There is also the possibility this year (an NCAA rule eliminates this after 1986) of an ineligible player attending a prep school, playing football and getting grades up to par, then reentering the school which signed him in time to participate in spring training. In that case the signee continues to count against the overall limit of 95 scholarshiped athletes, but he cannot be signed by another school and he has four years of football eligibility remaining.

Two Not Returning

At least two Alabama football players, both 1985 signees, will not return this season. Quarterback Mike Burch and lineman Tray Pruet have told Coach Ray Perkins they are giving up football. Two others from last season, linemen Allan Brown and Venson Elder,

were forced to give up football because of injuries.

Wilkinson May Get Six

Defensive back Vernon Wilkinson, critically injured in an automobile accident in April, could have his eligibility extended by an NCAA rule. Wilkinson was to have been an upcoming senior who had already been redshirted. Ordinarily, a player has five years in which to play four. However, in extraordinary circumstances the NCAA has granted a sixth year to a player.

"We have applied for a hardship year for Vernon and we have been encouraged by what we have been told," said Perkins. However, Wilkinson (who has been released from the hospital) would have to get a clean bill of health and regain his academic eligibility (he missed all of his spring final examinations while hospitalized) before being able to play football again in 1987.

Scruggs Honored

George Scruggs, the redshirted freshman running back who was killed in the accident that injured Wilkinson, was honored by the Bama coaching staff following spring work as winner of the Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back Award. The selection of Scruggs was not just an emotional one; he had an outstanding spring at one of Bama's most competitive positions.

A pair of former Phenix City Central High School teammates took two awards. Linebacker Van Davis (called by Perkins "the pleasant surprise of the spring") took the LeeRoy Jordan Headhunter Award, while tackle Willie Ryles won the Billy Neighbors Most Improved Defensive Lineman Award. Other winners were Chris Goode (Bobby Johns Most Improved Defensive Back), Joe King (Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman), Greg Payne (Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver) and Van Tiffin (Jerry Duncan I Like To Practice).

Mercury Morris To Speak

Alabama Head Coach Ray Perkins is in the same boat as all who are interested in college athletics in his concern about drug use among athletes. Unlike most of those interested, though, he is in a position to try to do something to prevent drug problems. While he won't be satisfied until Alabama athletes are 100 percent drug free, he is pleased that in three years of testing (including surprise tests) there have been only 41 positive tests and that only one athlete has tested positively twice.

As part of the continuing drug education program (all scholarshiped athletes are re-

quired to take a course outlining the dangers of drug use), Perkins is bringing former professional football star Mercury Morris to Tuscaloosa August 10 to speak to his team. Morris was recently released from prison after a drug conviction.

Court Problems

Academic eligibility may have an effect on Alabama's basketball program this year. Michael Dizaar, Bama's only signee in the early period last fall, is reportedly not eligible for NCAA competition and has elected not to attend Bama.

Two other potential new additions have both academic and legal obstacles. Freshman-to-be Josh Gilbert is awaiting word on his national standardized test scores and junior transfer Rob Comegy must pass two classes this summer at Shelton State Junior College to be eligible to participate at Bama this year. Gilbert and Comegy are also awaiting the results of a Tuscaloosa County grand jury, which will consider an indictment against the two for receiving stolen property when it convenes August 4. The two were allegedly in possession of two paintings when they were stopped by University police in June. The paintings were determined to have been taken from a University dormitory and a month later the two were charged.

Tide Head Coach Wimp Sanderson said he does not think the two athletes' eligibility "is threatened at this time." Barring the worst of results, it would seem that denial of University admission or basketball eligibility would be undue punishment.

Court Success

Derrick McKey is now the proud owner of a gold medal. The Bama junior-to-be was a member of the United States team which defeated the Soviet Union to win the World Basketball Championships. It was the first win for the United States since 1954.

Closer to home, some Tide basketball players participating in the Birmingham Summer League are doing well. Although play in the league does not approximate college competition (because of the almost total lack of defensive effort), it does draw a number of outstanding college, professional and future college players. Entering the final week of the season Jim Farmer was second in scoring (26.2 points per game), Michael Ansley fourth (23.8) and Mark Gottfried 11th (17.0); Ansley was second in rebounding (10.4), William DeVaughn and Craig Dudley tied for 15th (7.2); Dudley was second (to Ennis Whatley) in assists (5.6) and first in steals (3.6, including nine in one game) and DeVaughn fourth in blocked shots (2.3).

AUGUST '86/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

Also playing but not ranking in the league's top 15 in statistical categories are J.J. Jackson, signee Josh Gilbert and expected transfer Rob Comegy. Additionally, Terry Coner was expected to play in the final week and in the playoffs.

More Gold

Lillie Leatherwood, Alabama's outstanding quarter miler who won a Gold Medal in the 1984 Olympics, had an outstanding summer, winning another gold in the Goodwill Games in Moscow, then going to London where she upset triple Olympic champion Valerie Brisco-Hooks at 400 meters. In the same London meet former Tider Calvin Smith, the world record holder at 100 meters, took the championship in his specialty.

New Track Coach

Alabama's track and field team will be under new leadership this year. Following an investigation into Bama athletes accepting awards for race participation, longtime Tide coach John Mitchell resigned his post. He was replaced by Doug Williamson, who was Atlantic Coast Conference Coach of the Year for his work at Virginia and who prior to that was a member of the staff at Arkansas, a national track and field powerhouse.

Williamson has added David Troy from Colorado to the staff to coach cross country and distance runners.

One distance runner who won't be available is All-America Liz Lynch, who was ruled ineligible for accepting payment in road races.

Baseball Adds On

Alabama's baseball staff faced a rebuilding job immediately after its 1986 season in which the Tide made it to the NCAA playoffs. In addition to graduating seniors (three of which were drafted), four juniors—All-Southeastern Conference catcher Doug Duke, All-SEC designated hitter Pat Bailey, All-SEC pitcher Pete Roberts and center-fielder Ted Williams—were drafted and signed professional contracts.

The job of signing new talent was barely underway before it, too, was sabotaged by the draft. Junior college additions Randy Butts and Rick Christian of Hagerstown, Maryland, were also professional signees.

In addition to catcher Hunter Plott of Tuscaloosa Academy, who was an early signee with Butts and Christian, Bama has added 14 other new players. They are: Pat Monti, a shortstop from Shelton State Community College; Jeff Harmon, an infielder from Demopolis; Tommy Milstead, a pitcher from Sheffield; Al Sudduth, an infielder from Shel-

ton State; Tim Butt, a catcher from Sparrows Point, Maryland; Pete Brown, a pitcher from Big Flats, New York; Mike Thompson, a pitcher from Las Vegas; Mark Stephens, a pitcher from Albertville; Robert Fletcher, an infielder from San Diego; David Oropez, a pitcher from Nogales, Arizona; Dee Norwood, a pitcher from Pensacola; Clint Thompson, a catcher from Panama City; Tyler Williams, a pitcher from Montgomery; and Danny Beard, a pitcher from Montgomery.

Swimming Also Adds On

Swimming and diving coaches rank just behind baseball coaches in additions. The Tide has added two men—breaststroker Jim Niedholfer of Hartland, Wisconsin, and diver Scott Pommerleau of Waltham, Massachusetts—and seven women—breaststroker Jennifer Lowe of Hendersonville, Tennessee, breaststroker Monica Taafé of Jacksonville, Florida, butterflyer Dorie Green of San Mateo, California, sprint freestyler Cynthia Kangoes of Wellesley, Massachusetts, sprint freestyler Katie Williams of Lakeland, Florida, sprint freestyler Carina Wieberg of Malmo, Sweden (where she swam for former Tide swimmer and assistant coach Torsten Buhre), and breaststroker Kelly Purcell of San Ramon, California.

And Other New Women

There have also been additions in other women's sports this summer. Basketball has added guard Tina Moore of Phoenix, Arizona, and small forward Johna Williams of Tuscaloosa, while gymnastics added Alison Blumberg of Potomac, Maryland.

Academic Honorees

Gymnast Julie Estin, a pre-med major with a 3.96 average, was named an Academic All-America by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Estin was one of a number of Tiders to be named Academic All-SEC following the spring sports. Other Bama athletes selected were: In baseball, Chris Barnes, David Turner and Mike Wiggins; in gymnastics, Allison Beldon and Stephanie Kehr; in women's golf, Anna Bjuro, Lisa Bradford and Lois Ledbetter; in men's tennis, Mike Grossman; in women's tennis, Inge Cupers and Linda Mohlman; in men's track and field, Gunnar Ageskar, Eggert Bogason, Vesteinn Hafsteinsson and Scott Spangler; in women's track and field, Iris Gronfeldt, Lisa Pakutka and Claire Townsend; in men's swimming, Don Berger, Filiberto Colon, Toby Karlsson, Enrique Romero and Ricardo Valdivia; and in women's swimming, Anna Doig and Donna Sheets.



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A New Game In Town

by Lisa Dickerson

There's an additional Crimson Tide this year as Bama fields a women's soccer team

In order to conform to an NCAA regulation that calls for seven women's varsity sports, of which two must be considered team sports, Alabama's newest addition to its nationally acclaimed athletics program is women's intercollegiate soccer.

According to Associate Athletics Director for Women's Sports Sarah Patterson, soccer was chosen over other team sports such as volleyball and softball because it was more adaptable to the University.

"Facility-wise, soccer was the best choice to fit our needs at this time," Patterson explained. "It is also considered to be one of the fastest growing sports in popularity in the United States."

Patterson calls the University's choice of the sport an exertion of leadership. She is aware that "Many people were surprised when we announced we would be adding soccer instead of several other sports, but we took a stand behind what we felt was in the best interest of the program. Hopefully, the other conference schools will follow in our example and introduce programs as well." That doesn't seem likely in the near future. Eight Southeastern Conference teams currently have women's volleyball as a second team sport (all have basketball). Only Bama and Vanderbilt now field women's varsity soccer teams.

"We hope to see soccer catch on in the conference and someday for the program here at Bama to achieve the national prominence of many of our other teams," she added.

The first-year program will be headed by a native of Vrbas, Yugoslavia, and a three-year University of Alabama Russian instructor, Janko Emedi.

Emedi, 33, attended Roosevelt High School in Chicago, Illinois, and also Wilbur Wright College in Chicago before accepting an athletic scholarship to play soccer at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. His career



Janko Emedi

interest lies in Slavic languages and he received his undergraduate degree (Honors Scholar) from UAH in 1977, his masters degree from Indiana University (Bloomington) in 1979 and is currently working on his doctoral dissertation from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor).

While the rookie coach admits to not having a considerable amount of coaching experience, Emedi has spent numerous hours playing the game. During his soccer career he has played the midfield and forward positions and was a member of the 1976 UAH team that made it to the NAIA Nationals. His coaching experience consists of several years involvement with the YMCA age group program in Indiana, working with boys and girls ages 8-10, and refereeing women's games.

Emedi approaches the upcoming season optimistically, but realizes the magnitude of his challenge. He sets his goals high, but is realistic.

"I hope to establish a program that can and will follow in the path of Bama's winning tradition," he said. "Realistically, however, the quality of the players that turn out will depend on the team's success," Emedi said.

Twenty players are expected to fill the roster, but because of such a late start they will come on a volunteer basis this year. There will be some scholarships available, according to Patterson, and the athletics department will simply budget for one more sport, she added. Any and all athletes who are interested are welcome, and, if needed, there

will be formal tryouts if there is an excess of interest.

"We are looking for well-rounded athletes," the rookie coach said. "Anyone who has a natural aptitude and coordination for a sport can be successful in soccer with practice on drills." Speed and endurance are particularly helpful, he said.

Two years ago Alabama had a women's club soccer team. Emedi refereed those games. One of the players from that team, upcoming senior Ellen Pistonne, is expected to be a charter member of the Alabama varsity. She is from St. Louis, one of the nation's hotbeds of soccer. Emedi said that she was also recruiting a few other women to try out for the team.

Emedi's philosophy is basic and straightforward. He believes in stressing the positive, that encouragement is an integral part of success.

"First, I believe in emphasizing that soccer is simply a sport to be played fairly and enjoyed. Losing gracefully is just as important as winning gracefully. One must know how to bounce back again and try to win with skill and intellect," he said.

Although soccer is considered to be the world's most popular game and although it is widely-played among young American boys and girls, the game has not received wide acceptance among spectators in the United States.

The women's game is basically the same as the men's version. There are 11 players to a team—usually a goalkeeper, four defenders, three midfielders and three forwards.

A 12-game schedule awaits the Tide with the first game scheduled for September 20 at Tennessee Wesleyan, another first-year program. Several other relatively new schools to the soccer world are scheduled including LaGrange College (Georgia), Huntingdon and Vanderbilt. Florida Central and North Carolina State, top ten powers, and Florida International, Emory and Erskine College, three other competitive schools, round out the schedule. Four matches will be played at home with the opener September 30 against Emory. Other home matches are October 11 against Huntingdon, October 25 against Tennessee Wesleyan and November 8 against LaGrange.

Bama will practice on the recreation fields on University Boulevard and play on the Barnwell Field on Bryant Drive.

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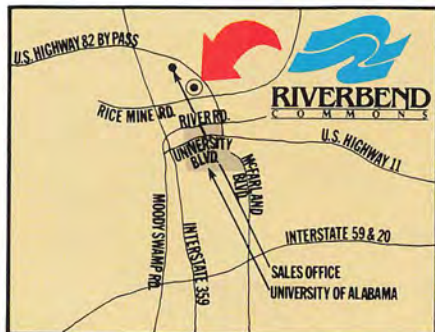
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